

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
MEETING OF FACULTY
14 February 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
Held via Zoom Conference Application**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS:

International Voluntary Service based in Zurich, working for over a year on disaster and humanitarian relief projects in Algeria, Northern Greece, and Switzerland. He was also an extremely competent craftsman. The family cottage

B.A. & Sc. Program Changes:

- Joint Honours Component in Psychology

AC-22-213

Associate Dean Hundemer said several minor modifications had been made to the above Psychology programs. Program descriptions have been added to the programs, and some housekeeping changes/clarifications have been made. Other changes included: retiring a senior Honours seminar course and replacing it with a research methods course (approved above). Also added was a new course requirement to augment the statistical rigor of training in the Honours and Joint Honours programs. In addition, the Complementary Honours course requirements were slightly modified, allowing students to take 400-level courses as part of their Complementary Honours courses.

Associate Dean Hundemer informed members that SCTP now requires program descriptions for programs where none currently exist.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fussmann, that the changes be approved.

COMP 513 Advanced Computer Systems
4 credits

AC-22-167

Associate Dean Hundemer said COMP 513 has previously been taught as a topics course and was now being presented for adoption as a regular course.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

New Course

COMP 685 Machine Learning Applied to Climate Change
4 credits

AC-22-170

Associate Dean Hundemer said that COMP 685 was a higher-level seminar course on machine learning to be taught by a new professor.

A member raised the concern during the meeting that the Bieler School of Environment had not been consulted for feedback on possible overlap with environment courses. However, upon reviewing the proposal, there were no objections.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the course be adopted, pending consultation with the Bieler School of Environment.

The motion carried.

Secretary's Note: After the meeting, the School of Computer Science consulted with the Bieler School of Environment and received a consultation report with no objections.

B.Eng. Program Changes:

- Minor Program in Computer Science

AC-22-193

Associate Dean Hundemer described the changes in the Minor in Computer Science and said that ECE would be offering equivalent courses to COMP courses required for the program. Other changes are housekeeping in nature and deleting a retired course.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

3. Geography

GEOG 314 Geospatial Analysis
Prerequisite Web control
3 credits

AC-22-194

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that currently, many students are enrolling in GEOG 314 without taking the prerequisite course, GEOG 201. This was causing administrative issues, hence, a prerequisite control on Minerva will block registration for GEOG 314 if the prerequisite still needs to be completed.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

GEOG 325

New Master-Planned Cities
Changes: prerequisites, restrictions
3 credits

AC-22-195

Associate Dean Hundemer said that students were registering for GEOG 325 before

7. Dean's Business

a) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

(i) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) **S-22-23**

Associate Dean Mittermaier reminded members that the DMURL provides recognition for students who have completed at least 9 credits of graded research-based courses in at least two different units, and who have a minimum GPA of 3.00 on these courses. There were eight B.Sc. students and four B.A. & Sc. students listed in Document S-22-23 who would be graduating with this designation. Associate Dean Mittermaier thanked Mr. Victor Chisholm, SOUSA, for his work on the DMURL.

(ii) B.Sc. Global Designation **S-22-24**

Associate Dean Mittermaier said that the B.Sc. Global was a designation being given at graduation. Students must have at least three credits of a second language course, at least three credits of an independent research project course, plus a third component, chosen from various preselected options. There was one candidate who would graduate with the B.Sc. Global designation in Document S-22-24. Associate Dean Mittermaier thanked Ms. Myriam Thériault, Internships & Field Studies Office, for her work on the Global Designation.

b) Dean's Announcements

(i) **Kudos**

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox congratulated Prof. Eve J. Lee (Physics) for being awarded the 2022 Professor M. K. Vainu Bappu Gold Medal

keynote speech by Rinaldo Walcott, Professor and the Carl V. Granger Chair in Africana and American Studies at the University of Buffalo (SUNY). Additional events can be found at <https://www.mcgill.ca/equity/category/article-categories/black-history-month>.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Nilson for the update.

11. The New Vic Project Update

Dean Lennox announced that there would be no report for the current meeting, but he would provide an update to members at the next Faculty of Science meeting scheduled on 28 March 2023.

12. Reports of Associate Deans

- a) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer
- b) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier
- c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

Senator Leckey provided the report of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, noting that the committee now includes chairs from Senate and the Board of Governors. The committee has focused on how best the various EDI committees should interact.

Cristiane Tinmouth, Associate Vice Principal of Financial Services, gave the Annual Report on the Financial State of the University. Overall, a positive outlook, with some specifics of interest to the Faculty of Science: in fiscal year 2022 the total spend to date for IT projects was \$95.5 million and deferred maintenance projects was \$109.1 million. Expenses and expenditure have increased compared to previous year due to relaxing of hiring freeze (i.e., in other words, a hiring thaw) and increased university activities. There has been a decrease in international students (and associated fee income), primarily a result of the Federal Government being unable to process visas. This will be a multiyear issue as this international enrollment cohort moves through. Overall, university in sound financial situation.

Denis Mondou, Chair of the Committee on Physical Development, provided the Annual Report of the Committee on Physical Development. There was questions and discussion about the 'new models of work', in which the University experimented with some staff working in a shared space. There were concerns voiced by Senators about how the pilot project was conducted, including that staff who felt they were guinea pigs. Overall, many staff involved in the project felt it was not a healthy work environment. In response to an additional question, Mondou indicated that McGill's building condemned index was 30% (very poor), and that these buildings were receiving the most attention.

were informed that the government intends to compensate universities for the difference between these increases, but the exact level of compensation is currently unknown

The Chair congratulated the University community for raising \$421,000 in benefit of Centraide of Greater Montreal and pointed out that the fundraising goal of \$425,000 should be achieved after all donations are processed.

The Board of Governors approved the extension of the current appointment of Senator Crago as Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) for a one-year period.

A **report of the Academic Policy Committee** (APC) was presented. Of note is the approval by Senate of a new Master's thesis program (M.Sc.) in Architecture (45 credits) in the Faculty of Engineering.

Senate approved a list of nominations put forward by the **Senate Nominating Committee** for the Committee on Student Services, and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

Senator Labeau presented to Senate for information the first of three presentations with respect to the planning of the **2023-2024 University Budget**. Based on actuals and commitments as of September 30, 2022, financial information collected from units and historical trends, the expectation is that both revenues and expenses will be higher than originally anticipated. The anticipated deficit is of \$9.2M, including a \$5.5M remaining contingency, as compared to the originally expected amounts of \$9.4M and \$20M contingency. While revenues from the sale of goods and services have increased more than expected, tuition and fee revenues have decreased. Some of the variance is also due to increases to Administrative and Support Staff salaries as incurred by the new Collective Agreement. Some of the priorities for 2023-2024 are to balance the budget, further the University's Mission, maintain competitive salary increases, and increase student recruitment. It was noted that staff turnover in certain areas of the University is a challenge and that this challenge will be addressed while maintaining fiscal responsibility. In terms of financed accumulated deficit, the target limit will be \$130M in 2023-2024.

Senator D'Iorio presented the **report from the Board of Governors to Senate**. He reported that the Board had approved the appointment of Professor H. Deep Saini as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University for a five-year term. The Board also approved a Research Grant Agreement between McGill University, and Brain Canada in support of the Virtual Integrated Patient Platform project. The Construction of Lot 1 of 3 of the New Residence Hall (Repairs to the Façade) was also approved, as well as the University Advancement's (UA) Customer Relationship Management System project.

Professor Buddle presented for information an **update on New Models of Academic Program Delivery**. This update included an overview of the draft recommendations relating to online/blended learning, the definitions of program types, and development of the University's credit and non-credit summer activities. The enhancement and support of experiential learning opportunities was also outlined in the draft recommendations, as well as the importance of the University maintaining flexibility in response to needs as they develop and emerge. The working group will submit its final report to the Provost and iTd[r]-vDo -13.754 -1 (at)3.5 (iN)1.5 (bi)1.5 (nw -28.3.6 (l)1.-1.15 TD[t(s)-2 (i)1.(w)-1.5 (el)-1.2 (s)-2 (u

opportunities, while managing unpaid ones, through avenues such as need-based financial support. The broad draft recommendations as well as recognition of the need to develop unit/department/faculty-specific guidelines to online/blended learning methods of instruction received general support from members of Senate. Some concern was expressed regarding the potential increase in workload for instructors as a result of the implementation of some of these recommendations. Regarding the need for resources, Professor Buddle stated that discussions will need to consider the development of classroom upgrades and investments.

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